

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for dynamic ingress to egress tunnel mapping on a communication network, the method comprising:  
receiving a tunneled communication from a subscriber using ~~said~~ a first communication network, said first communication network connected to at least one communication network by at least one egress tunnel communicatively coupled to a remote domain;  
determining egress tunnel selection criteria for said tunneled communication, said egress tunnel selection criteria indicating ~~the~~ a basis for selecting one of said at least one egress tunnel, said determining based at least in part on a tunnel database comprising selection criteria for at least one egress tunnel connecting said first communication network to said at least one communication network;  
selecting one of said at least one egress tunnel based on said egress tunnel selection criteria;  
and  
forwarding said tunneled communication on the selected egress tunnel.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising initializing a tunnel database that includes tunnel selection criteria for at least one egress tunnel connecting said first communication network to said at least one communication network.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said tunneled communication comprises a Point-to-Point Protocol (PPP) session.
4. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein said tunnels comprise L2TP tunnels.
5. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein said selecting further comprises:  
determining an ingress tunnel ID for said tunneled session, said ingress tunnel ID uniquely  
identifying an ingress tunnel including said PPP session; and  
selecting one of said one or more available egress tunnels based on said ingress tunnel ID.
6. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein said selecting further comprises:  
determining a subscriber domain for said tunneled session; and  
selecting one of said one or more available egress tunnels based on said subscriber domain.
7. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein said selecting further comprises:  
examining Type of Service (ToS) bits associated with said PPP session; and  
selecting one of said one or more available egress tunnel based on said ToS bits.
8. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein said selecting further comprises:  
examining a Virtual Path Identifier (VPI) / Virtual Channel Identifier (VCI) pair associated  
with said PPP session; and  
selecting one of said one or more available egress tunnel based on said VPI/VCI pair.

9. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein said selecting further comprises randomly selecting one of said one or more available egress tunnel connected to said remote domain.
10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4 wherein said selecting further comprises:  
determining ~~the~~ available bandwidth for at least one egress tunnel to said remote domain;  
and  
selecting one of said one or more available egress tunnel to said remote domain having the most available bandwidth.
11. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein said selecting further comprises:  
determining a time at which said PPP session is received; and  
selecting one of said one or more available egress tunnel based on said time.
12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4 wherein said selecting further comprises:  
determining ~~the~~ a time at which said PPP session is received;  
determining ~~the~~ available bandwidth for at least one egress tunnel to said remote domain;  
and  
selecting one of said one or more available egress tunnel having the most available bandwidth at said time.
13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4 wherein said selecting further comprises:  
examining Type of Service (ToS) bits associated with said PPP session;

determining ~~the~~ available bandwidth for at least one egress tunnel to said remote domain;

and

selecting one of said one or more available egress tunnel based on said ToS bits and said

available bandwidth.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4 wherein said selecting further comprises:

examining a Virtual Path Identifier (VPI) / Virtual Channel Identifier (VCI) pair associated

with said PPP session;

determining a class of service based on said VPI/VCI pair;

determining ~~the~~ available bandwidth for at least one egress tunnel to said remote domain;

and

selecting one of said one or more available egress tunnel based on said class of service and

said available bandwidth.

15. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein said selecting further comprises selecting one of

said one or more available egress tunnel to said remote domain having the smallest number

of tunneled sessions such that tunneled sessions are distributed evenly among egress tunnels

to said remote domain.

16. (Currently Amended) A program storage device readable by a machine, embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method to dynamically map ingress to egress tunnels on a communication network, the method comprising:
- receiving a tunneled communication from a subscriber using ~~said~~ a first communication network, said first communication network connected to at least one communication network by at least one egress tunnel communicatively coupled to a remote domain;
- determining egress tunnel selection criteria for said tunneled communication, said egress tunnel selection criteria indicating ~~the~~ a basis for selecting one of said at least one egress tunnel, said determining based at least in part on a tunnel database comprising selection criteria for at least one egress tunnel connecting said first communication network to said at least one communication network;
- selecting one of said at least one egress tunnel based on said egress tunnel selection criteria;
- and
- forwarding said tunneled communication on the selected egress tunnel.
17. (Original) The program storage device of claim 16 wherein said method further comprises initializing a tunnel database that includes tunnel selection criteria for at least one egress tunnel connecting said first communication network to said at least one communication network.
18. (Original) The program storage device of claim 16 wherein said tunneled communication comprises a Point-to-Point Protocol (PPP) session.

19. (Original) The program storage device of claim 18 wherein said tunnels comprise L2TP tunnels.
20. (Original) The program storage device of claim 19 wherein said selecting further comprises:  
determining an ingress tunnel ID for said tunneled session, said ingress tunnel ID uniquely  
identifying an ingress tunnel including said PPP session; and  
selecting one of said one or more available egress tunnels based on said ingress tunnel ID.
21. (Original) The program storage device of claim 19 wherein said selecting further comprises:  
determining a subscriber domain for said tunneled session; and  
selecting one of said one or more available egress tunnels based on said subscriber domain.
22. (Original) The program storage device of claim 19 wherein said selecting further comprises:  
examining Type of Service (ToS) bits associated with said PPP session; and  
selecting one of said one or more available egress tunnel based on said ToS bits.
23. (Original) The program storage device of claim 19 wherein said selecting further comprises:  
examining a Virtual Path Identifier (VPI) / Virtual Channel Identifier (VCI) pair associated  
with said PPP session; and  
selecting one of said one or more available egress tunnel based on said VPI/VCI pair.

24. (Original) The program storage device of claim 19 wherein said selecting further comprises randomly selecting one of said one or more available egress tunnel connected to said remote domain.
25. (Currently Amended) The program storage device of claim 19 wherein said selecting further comprises:  
determining the available bandwidth for at least one egress tunnel to said remote domain;  
and  
selecting one of said one or more available egress tunnel to said remote domain having the most available bandwidth.
26. (Original) The program storage device of claim 19 wherein said selecting further comprises:  
determining a time at which said PPP session is received; and  
selecting one of said one or more available egress tunnel based on said time.
27. (Currently Amended) The program storage device of claim 19 wherein said selecting further comprises:  
determining the a time at which said PPP session is received;  
determining the available bandwidth for at least one egress tunnel to said remote domain;  
and  
selecting one of said one or more available egress tunnel having the most available bandwidth at said time.

28. (Currently Amended) The program storage device of claim 19 wherein said selecting further comprises:
- examining Type of Service (ToS) bits associated with said PPP session;
  - determining the available bandwidth for at least one egress tunnel to said remote domain;
  - and
  - selecting one of said one or more available egress tunnel based on said ToS bits and said available bandwidth.
29. (Currently Amended) The program storage device of claim 19 wherein said selecting further comprises:
- examining a Virtual Path Identifier (VPI) / Virtual Channel Identifier (VCI) pair associated with said PPP session;
  - determining a class of service based on said VPI/VCI pair;
  - determining the available bandwidth for at least one egress tunnel to said remote domain;
  - and
  - selecting one of said one or more available egress tunnel based on said class of service and said available bandwidth.
30. (Original) The program storage device of claim 19 wherein said selecting further comprises
- selecting one of said one or more available egress tunnel to said remote domain having the smallest number of tunneled sessions such that tunneled sessions are distributed evenly among egress tunnels to said remote domain.



31. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for dynamic ingress to egress tunnel mapping on a communication network, the apparatus comprising:
- means for receiving a tunneled communication from a subscriber using ~~said~~ a first communication network, said first communication network connected to at least one communication network by at least one egress tunnel communicatively coupled to a remote domain;
- means for determining egress tunnel selection criteria for said tunneled communication, said egress tunnel selection criteria indicating ~~the~~ a basis for selecting one of said at least one egress tunnel, said means for determining based at least in part on a tunnel database comprising selection criteria for at least one egress tunnel connecting said first communication network to said at least one communication network;
- means for selecting one of said at least one egress tunnel based on said egress tunnel selection criteria; and
- means for forwarding said tunneled communication on the selected egress tunnel.
32. (Original) The apparatus of claim 31, further comprising means for initializing a tunnel database that includes tunnel selection criteria for at least one egress tunnel connecting said first communication network to said at least one communication network.
33. (Original) The apparatus of claim 31 wherein said tunneled communication comprises a Point-to-Point Protocol (PPP) session.

34. (Original) The apparatus of claim 33 wherein said tunnels comprise L2TP tunnels.
35. (Original) The apparatus of claim 34 wherein said means for selecting further comprises:  
means for determining an ingress tunnel ID for said tunneled session, said ingress tunnel ID  
uniquely identifying an ingress tunnel including said PPP session; and  
means for selecting one of said one or more available egress tunnels based on said ingress  
tunnel ID.
36. (Original) The apparatus of claim 34 wherein said means for selecting further comprises:  
means for determining a subscriber domain for said tunneled session; and  
means for selecting one of said one or more available egress tunnels based on said  
subscriber domain.
37. (Original) The apparatus of claim 34 wherein said means for selecting further comprises:  
means for examining Type of Service (ToS) bits associated with said PPP session; and  
means for selecting one of said one or more available egress tunnel based on said ToS bits.
38. (Original) The apparatus of claim 34 wherein said means for selecting further comprises:  
means for examining a Virtual Path Identifier (VPI) / Virtual Channel Identifier (VCI) pair  
associated with said PPP session; and  
means for selecting one of said one or more available egress tunnel based on said VPI/VCI  
pair.

39. (Original) The apparatus of claim 34 wherein said means for selecting further comprises means for randomly selecting one of said one or more available egress tunnel connected to said remote domain.

40. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 34 wherein said means for selecting further comprises:

means for determining ~~the~~ available bandwidth for at least one egress tunnel to said remote domain; and

means for selecting one of said one or more available egress tunnel to said remote domain having the most available bandwidth.

41. (Original) The apparatus of claim 34 wherein said means for selecting further comprises:

means for determining a time at which said PPP session is received; and

means for selecting one of said one or more available egress tunnel based on said time.

42. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 34 wherein said means for selecting further comprises:

means for determining ~~the~~ a time at which said PPP session is received;

means for determining ~~the~~ available bandwidth for at least one egress tunnel to said remote domain; and

means for selecting one of said one or more available egress tunnel having the most available bandwidth at said time.

43. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 34 wherein said means for selecting further comprises:

means for examining Type of Service (ToS) bits associated with said PPP session;

means for determining the available bandwidth for at least one egress tunnel to said remote domain; and

means for selecting one of said one or more available egress tunnel based on said ToS bits and said available bandwidth.

44. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 34 wherein said means for selecting further comprises:

means for examining a Virtual Path Identifier (VPI) / Virtual Channel Identifier (VCI) pair associated with said PPP session;

means for determining a class of service based on said VPI/VCI pair;

means for determining the available bandwidth for at least one egress tunnel to said remote domain; and

means for selecting one of said one or more available egress tunnel based on said class of service and said available bandwidth.

45. (Original) The apparatus of claim 34 wherein said means for selecting further comprises

means for selecting one of said one or more available egress tunnel to said remote domain

having the smallest number of tunneled sessions such that tunneled sessions are distributed evenly among egress tunnels to said remote domain.

46. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for dynamic ingress to egress tunnel mapping on a communication network, the apparatus comprising:
- a receiving interface to receive a tunneled communication from a subscriber using said a first communication network, said first communication network connected to at least one communication network by at least one egress tunnel communicatively coupled to a remote domain;
  - an egress tunnel selection criteria determiner to determine egress tunnel selection criteria for said tunneled communication, said egress tunnel selection criteria indicating ~~the~~ a basis for selecting one of said at least one egress tunnel, said egress tunnel selection criteria determiner adapted to determine said egress tunnel selection criteria based at least in part on a tunnel database comprising selection criteria for at least one egress tunnel connecting said first communication network to said at least one communication network;
  - an egress tunnel selector to select one of said at least one egress tunnel based on said egress tunnel selection criteria; and
  - a session forwarder to forward said tunneled communication on the selected egress tunnel.
47. (Original) The apparatus of claim 46, further comprising a tunnel database initializer to initialize a tunnel database that includes tunnel selection criteria for said at least one egress tunnel connecting said first communication network to said at least one communication network.

48. (Original) The apparatus of claim 46 wherein said tunneled communication comprises a Point-to-Point Protocol (PPP) session.
49. (Original) The apparatus of claim 48 wherein said tunnels comprise L2TP tunnels.
50. (Original) The apparatus of claim 49 wherein said egress tunnel selector is further configured to select one of said one or more available egress tunnels based on an ingress tunnel ID.
51. (Original) The apparatus of claim 49 wherein said egress tunnel selector is further configured to select one of said one or more available egress tunnels based on a subscriber domain for said tunneled session.
52. (Original) The apparatus of claim 49 wherein said egress tunnel selector is further configured to select one of said one or more available egress tunnel based on ToS bits associated with said PPP session.
53. (Original) The apparatus of claim 49 wherein said egress tunnel selector is further configured to select one of said one or more available egress tunnel based on a Virtual Path Identifier (VPI) / Virtual Channel Identifier (VCI) pair associated with said PPP session.

54. (Original) The apparatus of claim 49 wherein said egress tunnel selector is further configured to randomly select one of said one or more available egress tunnel connected to said remote domain.
55. (Original) The apparatus of claim 49 wherein said egress tunnel selector is further configured to select one of said one or more available egress tunnel to said remote domain having the most available bandwidth.
56. (Original) The apparatus of claim 49 wherein said egress tunnel selector is further configured to select one of said one or more available egress tunnel based on a time at which said PPP session is received.
57. (Original) The apparatus of claim 49 wherein said egress tunnel selector is further configured to select one of said one or more available egress tunnel having the most available bandwidth at a time at which said PPP session is received.
58. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 49 wherein said egress tunnel selector is further configured to select one of said one or more available egress tunnel based upon ToS bits associated with said PPP session and upon ~~the~~ available bandwidth for at least one egress tunnel to said remote domain.
59. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 49 wherein said egress tunnel selector is further configured to select one of said one or more available egress tunnel based on a

Virtual Path Identifier (VPI) / Virtual Channel Identifier (VCI) pair and upon the available bandwidth for at least one egress tunnel to said remote domain.

60. (Original) The apparatus of claim 49 wherein said egress tunnel selector is further configured to select one of said one or more available egress tunnel to said remote domain having the smallest number of tunneled sessions such that tunneled sessions are distributed evenly among egress tunnels to said remote domain.
61. (Original) The apparatus of claim 49, further comprising:  
a monitor to periodically assess the loading of said apparatus; and  
a notifier to indicate that ingress tunnels should be directed to a different apparatus when said loading exceeds a predetermined threshold.
62. (New) A method for dynamic ingress to egress tunnel mapping on a communication network, the method comprising:  
receiving a tunneled communication comprising a Point-to-Point Protocol (PPP) session from a subscriber using a first communication network, said first communication network connected to at least one communication network by at least one L2TP egress tunnel communicatively coupled to a remote domain;  
determining egress tunnel selection criteria for said tunneled communication, said egress tunnel selection criteria indicating a basis for selecting one of said at least one L2TP egress tunnel;



selecting one of said at least one L2TP egress tunnel based on said egress tunnel selection criteria, said selecting further comprising:  
examining Type of Service (ToS) bits associated with said PPP session;  
determining available bandwidth for at least one L2TP egress tunnel to said remote domain; and  
selecting one of said one or more available L2TP egress tunnel based on said ToS bits and said available bandwidth; and  
forwarding said tunneled communication on the selected L2TP egress tunnel.

63. (New) A method for dynamic ingress to egress tunnel mapping on a communication network, the method comprising:  
receiving a tunneled communication comprising a Point-to-Point Protocol (PPP) session from a subscriber using a first communication network, said first communication network connected to at least one communication network by at least one L2TP egress tunnel communicatively coupled to a remote domain;  
determining egress tunnel selection criteria for said tunneled communication, said egress tunnel selection criteria indicating a basis for selecting one of said at least one L2TP egress tunnel;  
selecting one of said at least one L2TP egress tunnel based on said egress tunnel selection criteria, said selecting further comprising:  
examining a Virtual Path Identifier (VPI) / Virtual Channel Identifier (VCI) pair associated with said PPP session;  
determining a class of service based on said VPI/VCI pair;

determining available bandwidth for at least one egress tunnel to said remote domain;

and

selecting one of said one or more available egress tunnel based on said class of service

and said available bandwidth; and

forwarding said tunneled communication on the selected L2TP egress tunnel.

64. (New) A method for dynamic ingress to egress tunnel mapping on a communication

network, the method comprising:

receiving a tunneled communication comprising a Point-to-Point Protocol (PPP) session

from a subscriber using a first communication network, said first communication

network connected to at least one communication network by at least one L2TP egress

tunnel communicatively coupled to a remote domain;

determining egress tunnel selection criteria for said tunneled communication, said egress

tunnel selection criteria indicating a basis for selecting one of said at least one L2TP

egress tunnel;

selecting one of said at least one L2TP egress tunnel based on said egress tunnel selection

criteria, said selecting further comprising selecting one of said one or more available

L2TP egress tunnel to said remote domain having the smallest number of tunneled

sessions such that tunneled sessions are distributed evenly among egress tunnels to said

remote domain; and

forwarding said tunneled communication on the selected L2TP egress tunnel.

65. (New) A program storage device readable by a machine, embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method to dynamically map ingress to egress tunnels on a communication network, the method comprising:
- receiving a tunneled communication comprising a Point-to-Point Protocol (PPP) session from a subscriber using a first communication network, said first communication network connected to at least one communication network by at least one L2TP egress tunnel communicatively coupled to a remote domain;
  - determining egress tunnel selection criteria for said tunneled communication, said egress tunnel selection criteria indicating a basis for selecting one of said at least one L2TP egress tunnel;
  - selecting one of said at least one L2TP egress tunnel based on said egress tunnel selection criteria, said selecting further comprising:
    - examining Type of Service (ToS) bits associated with said PPP session;
    - determining available bandwidth for at least one L2TP egress tunnel to said remote domain; and
    - selecting one of said one or more available L2TP egress tunnel based on said ToS bits and said available bandwidth; and
  - forwarding said tunneled communication on the selected L2TP egress tunnel.

66. (New) A program storage device readable by a machine, embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method to dynamically map ingress to egress tunnels on a communication network, the method comprising:
- receiving a tunneled communication comprising a Point-to-Point Protocol (PPP) session from a subscriber using a first communication network, said first communication network connected to at least one communication network by at least one L2TP egress tunnel communicatively coupled to a remote domain;
  - determining egress tunnel selection criteria for said tunneled communication, said egress tunnel selection criteria indicating a basis for selecting one of said at least one L2TP egress tunnel;
  - selecting one of said at least one L2TP egress tunnel based on said egress tunnel selection criteria, said selecting further comprising:
    - examining a Virtual Path Identifier (VPI) / Virtual Channel Identifier (VCI) pair associated with said PPP session;
    - determining a class of service based on said VPI/VCI pair;
    - determining available bandwidth for at least one egress tunnel to said remote domain;
    - and
    - selecting one of said one or more available egress tunnel based on said class of service and said available bandwidth; and
  - forwarding said tunneled communication on the selected L2TP egress tunnel.

67. (New) A program storage device readable by a machine, embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method to dynamically map ingress to egress tunnels on a communication network, the method comprising:
- receiving a tunneled communication comprising a Point-to-Point Protocol (PPP) session from a subscriber using a first communication network, said first communication network connected to at least one communication network by at least one L2TP egress tunnel communicatively coupled to a remote domain;
- determining egress tunnel selection criteria for said tunneled communication, said egress tunnel selection criteria indicating a basis for selecting one of said at least one L2TP egress tunnel;
- selecting one of said at least one L2TP egress tunnel based on said egress tunnel selection criteria, said selecting further comprising selecting one of said one or more available L2TP egress tunnel to said remote domain having the smallest number of tunneled sessions such that tunneled sessions are distributed evenly among egress tunnels to said remote domain; and
- forwarding said tunneled communication on the selected L2TP egress tunnel.
68. (New) An apparatus for dynamic ingress to egress tunnel mapping on a communication network, the apparatus comprising:
- means for receiving a tunneled communication comprising a Point-to-Point Protocol (PPP) session from a subscriber using a first communication network, said first communication network connected to at least one communication network by at least one L2TP egress tunnel communicatively coupled to a remote domain;

means for determining egress tunnel selection criteria for said tunneled communication, said egress tunnel selection criteria indicating a basis for selecting one of said at least one L2TP egress tunnel;

means for selecting one of said at least one L2TP egress tunnel based on said egress tunnel selection criteria, said means for selecting further comprising:

means for examining Type of Service (ToS) bits associated with said PPP session;

means for determining available bandwidth for at least one L2TP egress tunnel to said remote domain; and

means for selecting one of said one or more available L2TP egress tunnel based on said ToS bits and said available bandwidth; and

means for forwarding said tunneled communication on the selected L2TP egress tunnel.

69. (New) An apparatus for dynamic ingress to egress tunnel mapping on a communication network, the apparatus comprising:

means for receiving a tunneled communication comprising a Point-to-Point Protocol (PPP) session from a subscriber using a first communication network, said first communication network connected to at least one communication network by at least one L2TP egress tunnel communicatively coupled to a remote domain;

means for determining egress tunnel selection criteria for said tunneled communication, said egress tunnel selection criteria indicating a basis for selecting one of said at least one L2TP egress tunnel;

means for selecting one of said at least one L2TP egress tunnel based on said egress tunnel selection criteria, said means for selecting further comprising:

means for examining a Virtual Path Identifier (VPI) / Virtual Channel Identifier (VCI)  
pair associated with said PPP session;  
means for determining a class of service based on said VPI/VCI pair;  
means for determining available bandwidth for at least one egress tunnel to said remote  
domain; and  
means for selecting one of said one or more available egress tunnel based on said class  
of service and said available bandwidth; and  
means for forwarding said tunneled communication on the selected L2TP egress tunnel.

70. (New) An apparatus for dynamic ingress to egress tunnel mapping on a communication  
network, the apparatus comprising:

means for receiving a tunneled communication comprising a Point-to-Point Protocol (PPP)  
session from a subscriber using a first communication network, said first  
communication network connected to at least one communication network by at least  
one L2TP egress tunnel communicatively coupled to a remote domain;  
means for determining egress tunnel selection criteria for said tunneled communication, said  
egress tunnel selection criteria indicating a basis for selecting one of said at least one  
L2TP egress tunnel;  
means for selecting one of said at least one L2TP egress tunnel based on said egress tunnel  
selection criteria, said selecting further comprising selecting one of said one or more  
available L2TP egress tunnel to said remote domain having the smallest number of  
tunneled sessions such that tunneled sessions are distributed evenly among egress  
tunnels to said remote domain; and

means for forwarding said tunneled communication on the selected L2TP egress tunnel.

71. (New) An apparatus for dynamic ingress to egress tunnel mapping on a communication network, the apparatus comprising:

a receiving interface to receive a tunneled communication comprising a Point-to-Point

Protocol (PPP) session from a subscriber using a first communication network, said first communication network connected to at least one communication network by at least one L2TP egress tunnel communicatively coupled to a remote domain;

an egress tunnel selection criteria determiner to determine egress tunnel selection criteria for said tunneled communication, said egress tunnel selection criteria indicating a basis for selecting one of said at least one L2TP egress tunnel;

an egress tunnel selector to select one of said at least one L2TP egress tunnel based on said egress tunnel selection criteria, said egress tunnel selector further configured to select one of said one or more available L2TP egress tunnel based upon ToS bits associated with said PPP session and upon available bandwidth for at least one L2TP egress tunnel to said remote domain; and

a session forwarder to forward said tunneled communication on the selected L2TP egress tunnel.

72. (New) An apparatus for dynamic ingress to egress tunnel mapping on a communication network, the apparatus comprising:

a receiving interface to receive a tunneled communication comprising a Point-to-Point

Protocol (PPP) session from a subscriber using a first communication network, said first



communication network connected to at least one communication network by at least one L2TP egress tunnel communicatively coupled to a remote domain;

an egress tunnel selection criteria determiner to determine egress tunnel selection criteria for said tunneled communication, said egress tunnel selection criteria indicating a basis for selecting one of said at least one L2TP egress tunnel;

an egress tunnel selector to select one of said at least one L2TP egress tunnel based on said egress tunnel selection criteria, said egress tunnel selector further configured to select one of said one or more available L2TP egress tunnel based on a Virtual Path Identifier (VPI) / Virtual Channel Identifier (VCI) pair and upon the available bandwidth for at least one L2TP egress tunnel to said remote domain; and

a session forwarder to forward said tunneled communication on the selected L2TP egress tunnel.

73. (New) An apparatus for dynamic ingress to egress tunnel mapping on a communication network, the apparatus comprising:
- a receiving interface to receive a tunneled communication comprising a Point-to-Point Protocol (PPP) session from a subscriber using a first communication network, said first communication network connected to at least one communication network by at least one L2TP egress tunnel communicatively coupled to a remote domain;
- an egress tunnel selection criteria determiner to determine egress tunnel selection criteria for said tunneled communication, said egress tunnel selection criteria indicating a basis for selecting one of said at least one L2TP egress tunnel;

an egress tunnel selector to select one of said at least one L2TP egress tunnel based on said egress tunnel selection criteria, said egress tunnel selector further configured to select one of said one or more available L2TP egress tunnel to said remote domain having the smallest number of tunneled sessions such that tunneled sessions are distributed evenly among L2TP egress tunnels to said remote domain; and

a session forwarder to forward said tunneled communication on the selected L2TP egress tunnel.